

## Management Information

### Descriptive And Geographic Information

**Historic Name(s):** Potomac Flats  
**Current Name(s):** Thomas Jefferson Memorial  
**Management Unit:** 332  
**Tract Numbers:** none  
**State and County:** District of Columbia, DC  
**Size (acres):** 19.20

### Boundary UTM

Boundary UTM(s):	Source	Type	Datum	Zone	Easting	Northing
				18	323348	4305415
				18	323041	4305441
				18	323346	4305677
				18	323644	4305710

**GIS File Name:**

**GIS File Description:**

### National Register Information

**National Register Documentation:** Entered -- Inadequately Documented

**Explanatory Narrative:**

The Jefferson Memorial is included in the 1973 National Register nomination of the East and West Potomac Parks but with very little documentation. Separate documentation of the Jefferson Memorial was added to the nomination in 1981, but this does not adequately address the landscape. An updated nomination is currently being prepared.

**NRIS Information:**

NRIS Number: 73000217  
Primary Certification: Listed In The National Register  
Primary Certification Date: 11/30/1973  
Name In National Register: East and West Potomac Parks  
Other Names In  
National Register: Potomac Flats

**National Register Eligibility:** Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination

**Explanatory Narrative:**

The National Register Nomination for the Thomas Jefferson Memorial is currently being updated to include information about contributing landscape features.

**Date of Eligibility Determination:** 6/21/1973

**National Register Classification:** District

**Significance Level:** National

**Contributing/Individual:** Contributing

**Significance Criteria:** A -- Inventory Unit is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history  
C -- Inventory Unit embodies distinctive characteristics of type/period/method of construction; or represents work of master; or possesses high artistic values; or represents significant/distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction

**Criteria Considerations:** F -- A property primarily commemorative in intent if design, age, tradition, or symbolic value has invested it with its own historical significance

**Period Of Significance**

Time Period: 1934 - 1943

Historic Context Theme: Expressing Cultural Values

Historic Context Subtheme: Architecture

Historic Context Facet: Period Revivals (1870-1940)

Time Period: 1934 - 1943

Historic Context Theme: Expressing Cultural Values

Historic Context Subtheme: Landscape Architecture

Historic Context Facet: The City Beautiful Movement

Time Period: 1934 - 1943

Historic Context Theme: Expressing Cultural Values

Historic Context Subtheme: Painting and Sculpture

Historic Context Facet: The Second Generation 1920-

Time Period: 1934 - 1943

Historic Context Theme: Expressing Cultural Values

Historic Context Subtheme: Landscape Architecture

Historic Context Facet: Urban Planning In The Nineteenth Century

**Area Of Significance:**

Category: Architecture

Priority: 1

Category:	Community Planning And Development
Priority:	1
Category:	Landscape Architecture
Priority:	2
Category:	Art
Priority:	3

## National Historic Landmark Information

**National Historic  
Landmark Status:** No

## World Heritage Site Information

**World Heritage Site Status:** No

## Cultural Landscape Type and Use

**Cultural Landscape Type:** Historic Designed Landscape

### Current and Historic Use/Function:

Use/Function Category:	Government
Use/Function:	Monument (Building)
Detailed Use/Function:	Monument (Building)
Type Of Use/Function:	Both Current And Historic

Use/Function Category:	Recreation/Culture
Use/Function:	Outdoor Recreation
Detailed Use/Function:	Outdoor Recreation-Other
Type Of Use/Function:	Both Current And Historic

Use/Function Category:	Landscape
Use/Function:	Plaza/Public Space (Square)
Detailed Use/Function:	Plaza/Public Space (Square)-Other
Type Of Use/Function:	Both Current And Historic

## Ethnographic Information

**Ethnographic Survey Conducted:** No Survey Conducted

**Significance Description:**

The Jefferson Memorial and grounds sit on land reclaimed from river dredgings. Consequently ethnographic information is not anticipated at this site.

**Adjacent Lands Information**

**Do Adjacent Lands Contribute?** Yes

**Adjacent Lands Description:**

Adjacent lands contribute to the significance and integrity of the Jefferson Memorial and grounds. As is the southern point in the McMillan ‘kite’ plan, the relationship to the Washington Monument and White House on the north-south axis, and to the Mall with the Capitol to the east and the Lincoln Memorial to the west, places it firmly in the core of monumental Washington D.C. In addition, its relationship to other spaces and points in the East and West Potomac Parks is important. Visitors experience the Tidal Basin with its ring of cherry trees as part of the memorial grounds. On the west side of the Tidal Basin, the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial is a recent addition to the adjacent landscape that is somewhat visible from the Jefferson. It brings FDR visitors to water’s edge where they have excellent views back to Jefferson. The baseball diamonds and polo field are only marginally visible from the Jefferson, but the sounds from them can be heard. Other adjacent lands that are non-contributing due to noise and visual impact are National Airport and the bridges to the south. These roadways also impede the natural connection to Hains Point and the Potomac River.

## General Management Information

**Management Category:** Must Be Preserved And Maintained

**Management Category Date:** 4/13/1943

**Explanatory Narrative:**

This is the date that the Thomas Jefferson Memorial was dedicated.

**Maintenance Location Code:** 33216001

## Condition Assessment And Impacts

The criteria for determining the condition of landscapes is consistent with the Resource Management Plan Guideline definitions (1994) and is decided with the concurrence of park management. Cultural landscape conditions are defined as follows:

*Good:* indicates the landscape shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The landscape's cultural and natural values are as well preserved as can be expected under the given environmental conditions. No immediate corrective action is required to maintain its current condition.

*Fair:* indicates the landscape shows clear evidence of minor disturbances and deterioration by natural and/or human forces, and some degree of corrective action is needed within 3-5 years to prevent further harm to its cultural and/or natural values. If left to continue without the appropriate corrective action, the cumulative effect of the deterioration of many of the character-defining elements will cause the landscape to degrade to a poor condition.

*Poor:* indicates the landscape shows clear evidence of major disturbance and rapid deterioration by natural and/or human forces. Immediate corrective action is required to protect and preserve the remaining historical and natural values.

*Undetermined:* Not enough information available to make an evaluation.

**Condition Assessment:** Good

**Assessment Date:** 09/30/1998

**Date Recorded:** 09/30/1998

**Park Management Concurrence:** Yes      **Concurrence Date:** 9/20/2002

**Level Of Impact Severity:** Moderate

**Stabilization Measures:**

**Impact:**

Type of Impact: Adjacent Lands  
Internal/External: Both Internal and External

Description:

To the south, highways and bridge approaches and planes arriving and departing from Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport all negatively impact the site.

Type of Impact: Deferred Maintenance  
Internal/External: Internal

Description:

Deferred maintenance has historically been a problem at the site. Many problems, but not all, were addressed in the projects completed between 1998 and 2000. In 2002 the park addressed issues such as the volutes, the scroll-shaped ornaments on top of the columns, which are deteriorating.

Type of Impact: Erosion  
Internal/External: Both Internal and External

Description:

Erosion is a problem along the social trails at the edge of existing walks and behind the ring of cherry trees along the east edge of the Tidal Basin.

Type of Impact: Flooding  
Internal/External: External

Description:

Periodic flooding impacts the circulation systems and the vegetation on the site.

Type of Impact: Pollution  
Internal/External: External

Description:

Air pollution is causing damage to the materials of the memorial and steps, and impacts growth of vegetation on the site.

Type of Impact: Soil Compaction  
Internal/External: Internal

Description:

Soil compaction is a problem along the edges of existing walkways, where it prevents grass from growing. It also inhibits the healthy growth of trees and shrubs on the site.

Type of Impact: Structural Deterioration  
Internal/External: Internal

Description:

Structural deterioration is an on-going problem at the Jefferson Memorial, induced among other things by the settlement problems that have plagued the site due to its origin as fill.

Type of Impact:

Visitation

Internal/External:

Both Internal and External

Description:

The high volume of visitation exacerbates all of the impacts to the site.

## Agreements, Legal Interest, and Access

**Management Agreement:** Concession Contract

**Expiration Date:** 12/31/2010

**Explanatory Narrative:**

Guest Services, Inc. holds the concession for a food kiosk and gift shop. The food kiosk is restricted to selling only food items, but the gift shop sells a wide variety of products including souvenirs, film, postcards, T-shirts, maps and books.

**Management Agreement:** Cooperative Agreement

**Expiration Date:** 05/03/2001

**Explanatory Narrative:**

The park has a cooperative agreement with the Parks and History Association to run a bookstore at the lower level of the monument. There they sell books, postcards and other educational and interpretative material.

**NPS Legal Interest:** Fee Simple Reservation

**Explanatory Narrative:**

**Fee Simple Reservation For Life:**

**Public Access:** Other Restrictions

## Treatment

**Approved Treatment:** Undetermined  
**Approved Treatment Document:**  
**Document Date:**  
**Explanatory Narrative:**  
**Approved Treatment Completed:**

## Approved Treatment Cost

**LCS Structure Approved Treatment Cost:** \$5,500,000  
**Landscape Approved Treatment Cost:**  
**Cost Date:** February 1, 1998  
**Level of Estimate:** C - Similar Facilities  
**Cost Estimator:** Park  
**Explanatory Description:**

## Stabilization Costs

**LCS Structure Stabilization Cost:** \$50,200  
**Landscape Stabilization Costs:**  
**Cost Date:** December 1, 1994  
**Level Of Estimate:** C - Similar Facilities  
**Cost Estimator:** Support Office  
**Explanatory Description:** The LCS stabilization costs include \$50,000 for the memorial and \$200 for the statue.

## Documentation Assessment and Checklist

**Documentation Assessment:** Fair

**Documentation:**

Document: Other

Year Of Document: 1996

Amplifying Details: Thomas Jefferson Memorial: Landscape Overview

Adequate Documentation: Yes

**Explanatory Narrative:**

This document was done quickly to address issues pending on the site at the time. It provides an excellent overview of the Jefferson Memorial, but does not include the level of analysis and evaluation of a Cultural Landscape Inventory or Report.

## Appendix

### Bibliography

#### Citations:

Citation Author: Yonkers, Teschia Ann  
Citation Title: Shrine of Freedom: Thos. Jefferson Memorial  
Year of Publication: 1983  
Source Name: Library Of Congress/Dewey Decimal  
Citation Number: 83-90860  
Citation Type: Both Graphic And Narrative

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Citation Author: Prethro, Sally and Audrey Tepper  
Citation Title: Landscape Overview: Thomas Jefferson Memorial, Washington, D.C.  
Year of Publication: 1996  
Source Name: N.P.S. Denver Service Center  
Citation Type: Both Graphic And Narrative

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Citation Author: Storch Engineers  
Citation Title: "Report on Supplement Condition Survey for Peripheral Approaches and Appertenant Structures - Thomas Jefferson Memorial, East Potomac Park"  
Year of Publication: 1969  
Source Name: N.P.S. National Capital Region  
Citation Type: Both Graphic And Narrative

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Citation Author: Robinson & Associates, Inc. with Architrace P.C.  
Architects  
Citation Title: East and West Potomac Parks, Washington, D.C.:  
National Register Nomination - Preliminary Draft  
Year of Publication: 1997  
Source Name: N.P.S. National Capital Region  
Citation Type: Both Graphic And Narrative

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Citation Author: Dillon, Helen  
Citation Title: East and West Potomac Parks; Nomination  
Year of Publication: 1972  
Source Name: National Register of Historic Places  
Citation Type: Narrative

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Citation Author: N.P.S., National Capital Region  
Citation Title: Thomas Jefferson Memorial  
Year of Publication: 1981  
Source Name: National Register of Historic Places  
Citation Type: Narrative  
Citation Location: Not a nomination; documentation of existing Register  
property.

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## Supplemental Information

**Title:** Stephen Lorenzetti, National Capital Parks - Central, Chief, Division of Resource Management, Interview

**Description:** This interview was conducted on Oct. 2, 1998, with follow-up clarification in a phone conversation from Oct. 15, 1998. Interviews were also held in 9/2000, 10/2000 and 1/2001 to provide further updates and clarifications.